

Year-End Target Date For Regional Switch

TORONTO BUREAU OF THE HERALD

At this time next year regional government will exist in Peel, Halton, and Hamilton-Wentworth provided Queen's Park can reach a consensus with municipal politicians and the public says Arthur Meen, parliamentary secretary to Treasurer and Inter-governmental Affairs Minister John White.

January 1, 1974 is an ideal start-up time for regional government in the three areas because it coincides with the fiscal year end and the start of new terms of office for elected officials," he said.

Mr. Meen, 48-year-old Toronto lawyer, is the man responsible for preparation of legislation which is workable and acceptable to the three regions.

in principle at the public level. Before second reading is concluded the bill is referred to committee of the whole house for a clause by clause study.

The next stage is third reading which is considered a formality. At third reading members have an opportunity to make final statements on the legislation.

BECOMES LAW

It is expected that the bill will become law sometime prior to the summer recess when the Lieutenant Governor gives Royal Assent.

In past regional government legislation was approved several months prior to implementation to allow the regions to gear-up for the changeover.

"I don't want anyone to be left with the misapprehension

Within a few days he will announce the schedule for the first series of private meetings with municipal councils. At the meetings he will outline the financial implications of regional government. The meetings, he says, will involve councillors, clerks, treasurers, and roads people.

Mr. Meen told the Toronto bureau of The Herald he and planners of the ministry of intergovernmental affairs will indicate assessment figures and planning priorities.

During the special interview he said the meetings can best be described as "shirt-sleeve sessions." He said provincial planners and economists will try to work out programs with the elected officials based on proposals announced at the Hamilton meeting last week.

Hornby

Hornby 4-H Gals Pick "Knit Wits"

North Trafalgar Euchre Club held their weekly euchre party on Saturday night, February 3, at the North Trafalgar Recreation Centre. There were six tables of euchre in play with the prizes going to the following ladies—Myrtle Cunningham, Vi Preston and Florence Tenyke. The gents prizes were won by Joe Ellis, Harold Smellie and Ralph Featherston. The lucky draws were won by Nora Krantz and Jimmie Cunningham.

REPEAT MEETINGS

Mr. Meen said he expects to have repeat meetings with many municipalities because information given at the first meeting will probably result in questions from elected officials and key people in the various municipal departments.

Following meetings with individual municipalities Mr. Meen will consider meetings to involve joint meetings at the councils in the new municipalities.

He said he hopes the meetings will end about March 30 in order work can start on legislation.

"If things move along by the end of March; if I have found consensus on major items and meetings have worked out well then we can launch into preparation of legislation," he said.

Among major items are establishment of responsibilities for distribution of water and sewer services, waste collections and disposal and planning.

The public will first learn of the legislation when it is introduced at Queen's Park for the first reading sometime in early May. Prior to public awareness the legislation will pass through management board of cabinet, policy and priorities committee, cabinet, legislation committee, cabinet, and government caucus.

At the early stages of the movement of the legislation through the first reading lawyers in the government offices check the legal wording of the bill. The legislation receives the green light for approval in principle when it passed the policies and priorities committee.

Following first reading the bill will remain on the order paper for about two weeks. During this time all members of the legislature will have an opportunity of studying the bill in view of making any necessary amendments.

Second reading of the bill, which will come sometime in late May based on the present schedule, represents approval

Get well wishes are extended to Mrs. Gordon Leslie, who is in the South-Peel Hospital, Mississauga, following surgery. Her many friends extend a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Dorothy Sammit entertained several little girls at home on Saturday on the occasion of her daughter's birthday, Debbie Sammit, who was celebrating her 7th birthday. Those who attended were: Janet McMillan, Ruth Rae, Sheila Royce, Joanne McMillan, Sharon Sammit, Kendra Hamilton and Susan Royce. Games were played which included a tire game. Hot dogs and corn on the cob were enjoyed by all and a delicious birthday cake decorated with candles and everybody helped to blow the candles out.

The third meeting of the 4-H Senior Club was held on Monday, February 5. Eleanor Smith, is the press reporter and opened the meeting with the 4-H Pledge. They decided on the name, "Knit Wits." Judy Chase, Gladys Smith and Janet

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we will forge ahead if it (the legislation) is contradictory to the wishes of the people," he said.

Mr. Meen encouraged citizens to write to Mr. White at Queen's Park with their reaction to the proposals. In turn the information will be given to Mr. Meen.

Mr. Meen says there is general consensus in the Peel and Halton areas to the government proposals. He said he didn't expect complete agreement but "The overall picture is one of strong support."

He said much of his time during the next few weeks will involve discussions with Hamilton-Wentworth on the two alternatives.

TECHNICAL POINTS

To clear the question of

elections Mr. Meen said elections will be required in the new municipalities in the fall.

"The people elected last fall wind up having their term cut short. In the new elections people will be elected for a three year term for the first election. This special three year term will bring them in line in 1976 with two year provincial municipal elections," he said.

On the question of a chairman for each of the regions, Mr. Meen said, "There is no better kept secret at Queen's Park."

In the regional government reorganization police villages will disappear throughout the three areas. A regional police force will come into effect in the three regions replacing municipal forces, he said.

Police boards, committees and chiefs held a meeting in Burlington, January 25, two days after the proposal for Regional Government, to discuss what submissions may have to be made among themselves.

One issue of particular concern will be the placing of police facilities, to utilize them to their fullest potential says Floyd Schwantz, Georgetown Police Chief. It was decided at the meeting there would have to be future meetings of this nature.

Floyd Schwantz says that a regional force will provide

better service to the area, in that they will be able to draw on experts in various fields of law enforcement. There will be a central records depot which will be better than the present use of the C.P.I.C. (Canadian Police Information and Communication).

A regional force will also phase out O.P.P. involvement in the area, with the exception of the 401 and Highway 7, says Chief Schwantz.

At present, the O.P.P. has a detachment office in Milton policing Esquesing and Nassugaweya and the two major highways, and a detach-

ment office in Acton.

There may be a modest increase in the force, equipment and cost, but Chief Schwantz indicated how this has to be considered with respect to more area to cover and better service.

He also stated that while the new system would provide

Regional Force Will Mean Better Policing Says Chief

added advantages, the present system was not lacking in any way, and that the co-operation between municipalities is good.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The office of the Court of Canadian Citizenship will be opened in the Town Hall, Main Street, Second Floor in Milton for the month of February on the following dates: Friday, February 2, 1973, Friday, February 16, 1973 (and alternate Fridays thereafter).

A Citizenship Officer will be in attendance to supply information about Canadian Citizenship and to take applications for Canadian Citizenship from 8.30 a.m. to 1.45 p.m. (lunch hour from 12.00 noon to 12.30 p.m.)

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